

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 30 – 51 and newly added claim 52. Claims 1 – 29 have been cancelled.

The Examiner is thanked for kindly pointing out that in Claim 30, line 3, “bold” should read “hold”. Claim 30 is amended to correct this informality thereby rendering the objection to this claim moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 37, 39, 47 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, is respectfully traversed. Claims 37, 39, 47 and 48 are amended to address the alleged deficiencies in the claims. In particular, claim 37 is amended to recite that the gas line is the source gas line. Claim 39 is amended to depend from claim 38 which recites a bypass gas line, thereby providing proper antecedent support for the bypass gas line of claim 39. Claims 47 and 48 are amended to clarify that the node is the relevant location. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 48 is also amended to recited “said gas analyzer” rather than “said source gas analyzer”. Claims 30 and 51 are amended to clarify the language therein, in particular with respect to the diluting gas line and the flow of gas through the source gas line and diluting gas line. Claim 45 is amended to make it dependent from claim 43 rather than claim 44.

New claim 52 depends from claim 51 and adds that the gas analyzer is provided in a branched gas line branched from the source gas line. This claim is supported at least by Figure 2 and the related descriptive text in the specification.

The rejection of claims 30 – 34, 36, 40, 41, 47 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Shinriki et al. (2003/0236001 A1) is respectfully traversed, and the rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shinriki et al. (2003/0236001 A1) either alone, or in combination with various other references, is respectfully traversed.

The present application claims priority to Japanese Application JP 2002 201532 which has a filing date of July 10, 2002. A certified English-language translation of this application is being filed concurrently with this Reply. These documents perfect the claim of priority to this Japanese application and establish an invention date which predates the U.S. filing date of the Shinriki et al. reference which is June 10, 2003.

Accordingly, the present application is entitled to a priority date which predates the filing of the application that resulted in the Shinriki et al. reference. As such, Shinriki et al. is not prior art to the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

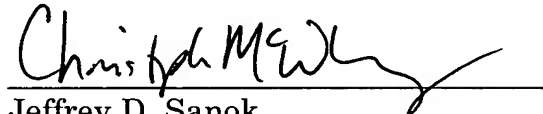
In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010986.52578US).

Respectfully submitted,

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